**Under utilization of funds**

424. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the utilization of funds in his Ministry for current financial year was very low; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. In the current financial year April 2001 to March 2002, the Ministry has upto February utilized Rs. 1025.13 crores out of the provision of Rs. 1239.67 crores.

**NGOs receiving grants in Gujarat**

425. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the particulars of voluntary organizations in Gujarat receiving grants from Government;

(b) the progress of work done by them; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken to encourage the Non-Governmental Organizations in the State?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) A total number of 74 voluntary organizations in Gujarat had been released an amount of Rs. 7.16 crores during the last financial year 2000-01 for implementation of the schemes/ programmes of this ministry which *inter-alia* include Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/ Fittings of Aids/Appliances integrated Programme for Older Persons like old age home and day care centre, Integrated Programme for Street Children, Prevention of Alcoholism & Substance (Drugs) Abuse, Educational & Vocational Trainig to Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes, Pre-examination Coaching for Weaker Sections including Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes & Minorities. The list of NGOs and amount released was included in the Annual Report of this Ministry for the year 2000-01 and tabled in the house earlier. An amount of Rs. 4.42 crores has been released to 93 NGOs in Gujarat, the particulars of which would be included in the Annual Report of the Ministry for the year 2001-02. A total number of 45113 beneficiaries have benefited as result of implementation of schemes of this Ministry by the NGOs in the State during current financial year 2001-02 (as on 28.02.2002).

(c) The schemes being implemented through voluntary organization are publicized periodically so that more NGOs can be encouraged to submit their proposals through the State Governments for implementation of the various schemes for the welfare of target groups. As a result, there has been substantial increase in the No. of NGOs seeking assistance from this Ministry for implementation of the various schemes.

**Expansion of network of schools for blind and handicapped**

426. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps being taken by Government to expand the network of schools for the blind and handicapped in the country;

(b) the details of financial grants given to these schools during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken for utilization of this fund? t

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Under the Scheme to Promote VolunataryAction for Persons with Disabilities assistance is given to volunatary organizations for taking up projects for welfare of the blind and handicapped in the area^jf education, training including vocational training and provision of rehabilitation services. There has been significant growth in the number of „0ft>anizations and amount of assistance given under the Scheme as a result of the encouragement given to voluntary action for setting up projects for welfare of blind and handicapped including schools. National Institutes, which are apex level institutions and expert bodies in different areas of disability also sponsor and support special schools in their respective area of disability.

(b) A statement indicating the number of organizations assisted and amount of grant released under the Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities is annexed (See below).

(c) In the Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with disabilities, grantee organizations are required to furnish audited accounts of the project and the organization as a whole, and audited utilization certificate of the previous grant released for continuation of further assistance. The Scheme also provides for requirements of satisfactory inspection report and recommendation of the inspecting agency before release of 2nd instalment of grant in aid. This facilitates monitoring of utilization of funds.